

What is claimed is:

1. An image search apparatus, which searches an image recording means, wherein images picked up by a camera are recorded in a time sequence, for an arbitrary image, comprising:

5 reading means for sequentially reading images from the image recording means;

comparing means for performing a comparison a first image read by the reading means between a second image subsequently read; and

10 defining means for defining the second image as the arbitrary image when the first image and the second image are not match as a result of comparison by the comparing means; and

transmitting means for transmitting the second image
15 as a search result.

2. The image search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the comparing means compares a predetermined area of the first image read by the reading means with the
20 predetermined area of the second image.

3. The image searching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images are recorded in the image recording

means as image data which are obtained by coding image signals inputted from the camera and by compressing the coded image signals,

the image searching apparatus further comprising:

5 data decompressing means for decompressing image data read by the reading means;

decoding means for decoding image data decompressed by the data decompressing means; and

transfer means for transferring the image data
10 decoded by the decoding means to a display device,

wherein the comparing means performs the comparison with the image data decompressed by the data decompressing means,

the reading means halts the sequential reading of
15 images based on the search result transmitted from the transmitting means, and

the data decompressing means transmits image data of only the second image defined as the arbitrary image to the decoding means based on the search result transmitted from
20 the transmitting means.

4. The image searching apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images are recorded in the image recording means as image data which are obtained by coding image
25 signals inputted from the camera and by compressing the

coded image signals,

the image searching apparatus further comprising:

data decompressing means for decompressing image data read by the reading means;

5 decoding means for decoding image data decompressed by the data decompressing means; and

transfer means for transferring the image data decoded by the decoding means to a display device,

wherein the comparing means performs the comparison
10 with the image data decompressed by the data decompressing means,

the data decompressing means sequentially transmits image data of the second image defined as the arbitrary image and image data which are successively read and
15 decompressed to the decoding means based on the search result transmitted from the transmitting means.

5. The image search apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

20 holding means for obtaining and holding attribute data accompanying with the second image defined as the arbitrary image based on the search result transmitted from the transmitting means;

producing means for producing list data in which the
25 attribute data held by the holding means are organized

after the reading means completes the sequential reading of images; and

transfer means for transmitting the list data produced by the producing means to the display device which
5 displays a list based on the list data.

6. The image search apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the images are recorded in the image recording means as image data which are obtained by coding image
10 signals inputted from the camera and by compressing the coded image signals,

the image searching apparatus further comprising:

data decompressing means for decompressing image data read by the reading means;

15 decoding means for decoding image data decompressed by the data decompressing means;

transfer means for transferring the image data decoded by the decoding means to a display device;

holding means for obtaining and holding attribute
20 data accompanying with the second image defined as the arbitrary image based on the search result transmitted from the transmitting means; and

producing means for producing list data in which the attribute data held by the holding means are organized
25 after the reading means completes the sequential reading of

images,

wherein the comparing means performs the comparison with the image data decompressed by the data decompressing means,

5 the data decompressing means transmits image data of only the second image defined as the arbitrary image to the decoding means, and

the transfer means transmits the list data produced by the producing means to the display device which displays
10 a list based on the list data.

7. The image search apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:

storage means for storing the list data produced by
15 the producing means.

8. The image search apparatus according to claim 6, further comprising:

storage means for storing the list data produced by
20 the producing means.